

# Economic Impacts of PGC's Deer Management Program

Four economic impact analyses were made based on two financial assessments of the Game Commission's deer-management program by the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee. LB&FC conducted the financial assessments in 2012 and 2017, and they depict the economic impacts that existed in 2010 and 2016.

## **A. Loss of hunters because of PGC's deer-reduction program and the lack of deer:**

1. As of 2010, 117,000 hunters had quit.
2. From 2010 to 2016, hunters on the first day of deer season declined by 200,000. About 150,000 of this number still bought a license but did not hunt, with the other 50,000 buying archery licenses. **As of 2016, a total of 270,000 hunters were effectively lost as hunters and economic generators.**

## **B. Annual economic impact to the Commonwealth, especially to rural communities:**

1. As of 2010, there was \$501.6 million in lost economic activity per year. Note that the Cameron County Chamber of Commerce referred to PGC's deer program as "*economic suicide for the county. Most family businesses that have not gone bankrupt or closed are down 50-60%.*" This is a microcosm of the economic impacts across the Northern Tier. Family cabins and hunting camps stand empty due to the lack of deer and other wildlife.
2. **As of 2016, the economic impact to the Commonwealth had increased to \$1.16 billion per year.**

## **C. Annual lost tax revenue to state and local governments due to PGC's deer program:**

1. As of 2010, \$40 million of tax revenue was lost per year.
  - a. \$25 million in annual lost state government tax revenue.
  - b. \$15 million in annual lost local government tax revenue.
2. **As of 2016, lost tax revenue had increased to \$92.5 million per year.**
  - a. \$57.8 million in annual lost state government tax revenue.
  - b. \$34.7 million in annual lost local government tax revenue.

## **D. PGC is calculated to be losing \$8.1 million per year in lost hunting-license fees.**

Note that PGC is requesting a license-fee increase of \$8M. PGC's deer program caused a lack of deer with resulting loss of hunters. Consequently, PGC has caused its own budget deficit.

## **Economic Benefits from Passing HB 1483**

Passage of HB 1483 will result in the following four major economic benefits for Pennsylvania, rural communities, and family businesses based on two financial assessments of the Game Commission's deer-management program by the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee in 2010 and 2017.

### **A. HB 1483 will return hunters as license-buying customers of PGC:**

1. **Within two years, HB 1483 is estimated to return 150,000 hunters.**
2. **Within five years, HB 1483 is estimated to return 270,000 hunters.**

### **B. HB 1483 represents an unparalleled economic generator for the state and rural communities:**

1. **Within two years, HB 1483 will generate \$658.4 million per year in economic activity.**
2. **Within five years, HB 1483 will generate \$1.16 billion per year in economic activity.**

### **C. HB 1483 will generate significant state and local tax revenues:**

1. **Within two years, HB 1483 will generate \$52.5 million per year in tax revenue.**
  - a. \$32.8 million in annual state government tax revenue.
  - b. \$19.7 million in annual local government tax revenue.
2. **Within five years, HB 1483 will generate \$92.5 million per year in tax revenue.**
  - a. \$57.8 million in annual state government tax revenue.
  - b. \$34.7 million in annual local government tax revenue.

### **D. Within two years, HB 1483 is projected to generate \$33-65 million per year in revenue:**

1. \$8.1 million per year in renewed hunting-license sales for PGC.
2. \$25-57 million per year in timber sales for PGC.

**Note that HB 1483 will also generate \$42-97 million per year in timber sales for DCNR.**